

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 42-48, 53, 54, 58, and 73-76 without prejudice to renewal of the canceled subject matter in a related patent application and amend claims 49, 50, 59, 63, 64, 71 and 85 as shown below.

The listing of claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-48. Canceled

Claim 49. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a fusion polypeptide wherein the fusion polypeptide ~~comprises~~ consists of a first subunit comprising at least one copy of the receptor binding domain of angiopoietin-1, the first subunit being fused to the N-terminal end of a multimerizing component, and the multimerizing component being fused at its C-terminal end to a second subunit comprising at least one copy of the receptor binding domain of angiopoietin-1, wherein the multimerizing component is an immunoglobulin derived domain selected from the group consisting of the Fc domain of IgG and the heavy chain of IgG.

Claim 50. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a fusion polypeptide wherein the fusion polypeptide ~~comprises~~ consists of a first subunit comprising at least one copy of a the receptor binding domain of angiopoietin-2, the first subunit being fused to the N-terminal end of a multimerizing component, and the multimerizing component being fused at its C-terminal end to a second subunit comprising at least one copy of the receptor binding domain of angiopoietin-2, wherein the multimerizing component is an immunoglobulin derived domain selected from the group consisting of the Fc domain of IgG and the heavy chain of IgG.

Claims 51-58. (Canceled)

Claim 59. (currently amended) A fusion polypeptide encoded by the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 49 or 50 ~~claims 42, 43, or 44.~~

Claim 60. (previously presented) The fusion polypeptide of claim 59, wherein the fusion polypeptide is multimerized.

Claim 61. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the multimerized fusion polypeptide of claim 60.

Claim 62. (currently amended) The composition of claim 61, wherein the multimer is a dimer formed by interaction between the multimerizing components of two adjacent fusion polypeptide molecules.

Claim 63. (currently amended) A vector which comprises the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 49 or 50 ~~claims 42, 43, or 44~~.

Claim 64. (currently amended) An expression vector comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule of ~~claims 42, 43, or 44~~ claim 49 or 50, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to an expression control sequence.

Claim 65. (Previously presented) A host-vector system for the production of a fusion polypeptide which comprises the expression vector of claim 64, in a suitable host cell.

Claim 66. (Previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 65, wherein the suitable host cell is a bacterial cell, yeast cell, insect cell or mammalian cell.

Claim 67. (Previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 66, wherein the suitable host cell is *E. coli*.

Claim 68. (Previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 66, wherein the suitable host cell is a COS cell.

Claim 69. (Previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 66, wherein the suitable host cell is a CHO cell.

Claim 70. (Previously presented) A method of producing a fusion polypeptide which comprises growing cells of the host-vector system of claim 66, under conditions permitting production of the fusion polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide so produced.

Claim 71. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a fusion polypeptide, wherein the fusion polypeptide ~~comprises~~ consists of more than one copy of a receptor binding domain of a ligand, each copy fused in tandem, and wherein either the N-terminal or the C-terminal ends of the tandem receptor binding domains is fused to a multimerizing component, wherein the multimerizing component is an immunoglobulin-derived domain selected from the group consisting of the Fc domain of IgG and the heavy chain of IgG, and wherein the receptor binding domain is the fibrinogen domain of angiopoietin-1 or angiopoietin-2.

Claim 72. (previously amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 71, wherein the receptor binding domains are fused contiguously.

Claims 73-76. Canceled.

Claim 77. (previously presented) A fusion polypeptide encoded by the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 71.

Claim 78. (previously presented) The fusion polypeptide of claim 77, wherein the fusion polypeptide is multimerized.

Claim 79. (previously presented) A composition comprising the multimerized fusion polypeptide of claim 78.

Claim 80. (currently amended) The composition of claim 79, wherein the multimerized fusion polypeptide is a dimer formed by interaction between the multimerizing components of two adjacent fusion polypeptide molecules.

Claim 81. (previously presented) A vector which comprises the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 71.

Claim 82. (previously presented) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 71, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to an expression control sequence.

Claim 83. (previously presented) A host-vector system for the production of a fusion polypeptide which comprises the expression vector of claim 82, in a suitable host cell.

Claim 84. (previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 83, wherein the suitable host cell is a bacterial cell, yeast cell, insect cell or mammalian cell.

Claim 85. (currently amended) The host-vector system of claim 84, wherein the suitable host cell is ~~E. coli~~ E. coli.

Claim 86. (previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 84, wherein the suitable host cell is a COS cell.

Claim 87. (previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 84, wherein the suitable host cell is a CHO cell.

Claim 88. (previously presented) A method of producing a fusion polypeptide which comprises growing cells of the host-vector system of claim 83, under conditions permitting production of the fusion polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide so produced.

Claim 89. (new) The composition of claim 61 wherein the multimer is tetrameric with respect to Ang1-FD.

Claim 90. (new) The composition of claim 61 wherein the multimer is tetrameric with respect to Ang2-FD.